



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/

For Immediate Release
January 12, 2004

Contact: Bob Mauseth
517-373-7350

Legislation getting tough on methamphetamine producers signed by governor

Lansing – Property used for clandestine labs to manufacture controlled substances will require inspections and hazard warnings placed on the site, Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) announced today after his bill was one of seven dealing with methamphetamine signed into law by the governor.

Fines and penalties for persons found guilty of the production of methamphetamine in Michigan also will increase. Public Acts 307-313 provide more tools for law enforcement and impose stiffer penalties for those who participate in the production of methamphetamine by owning or possessing the places, chemicals or equipment used in production of the illegal stimulant.

“Methamphetamine is a growing concern throughout Michigan with clandestine labs being found in rural and city areas, barns, garages, apartments, storage areas and vehicles,” Patterson said. “The production of methamphetamine can cause serious environmental risks since the toxic waste produced often is dumped in public sewer systems or directly on the ground.”

In addition to the contamination, production of meth can result in fires or explosions, injuring or killing law enforcement agents and fire personnel who respond to the scene of a meth lab.

The package of bills includes provisions that:

- Prohibit the possession of more than 12 grams of pseudoephedrine (a chemical used in the production of methamphetamine) with the exception of pediatric products;
- Increase to 20 years imprisonment the maximum penalty for those owning or possessing the places, chemicals or equipment used in production of the illegal stimulant;
- Create a new crime with a maximum penalty of four years imprisonment for people who transport anhydrous ammonia in unapproved containers;
- Require inspection of property used as a clandestine lab for the production of methamphetamine to determine if there is contamination, and require public warnings if any is discovered.

(more)

“These laws allow for felony charges to be imposed for persons who endanger others by being irresponsible citizens,” said Patterson. “Homes that have been used as clandestine labs are many times unsafe for living and cannot be sold, making them a detriment to the community. Requiring inspections of homes will help determine if the house will be usable in the future.”

###